

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /164 W

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O 171100Z OCT 73 ZFF-5

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 8171

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 18109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, HU, VS

SUBJECT: MARJAI VISIT TO VIETNAM

REF: (A) STATE 204919; (B) BUDAPEST 3471; (C) SAIGON 17998

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY (GIANG) INFORMS US THAT IT I GL LED NO (RPT NO) REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE OF MARJAI VISIT. FIRST WORD OF VISIT WAS WHEN MEMBER OF HUNGARIAN DELEGATION CONTACTED ARVN COLONEL ON GVN DELEGATION TO TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC) ON SUBJECT MORNING OF COTOBER 15. (MARJAI SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN SAIGON OCTOBER 16.) HUNGARIANS ALSO SUBMITTED A REQUEST FOR GVN APPROVAL OF MARJAI VISIT LOC NINH, (TOWN IN BINH LONG PROVINCE UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL) WHICH ARVN COLONEL REJECTED.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS INFORMED BY GVN MILITARY OF THESE APPROACHES BUT RECEIVED NO APPLICATION FOR VISA OR REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF VISA AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL. FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTES THAT MARJAI COULD HAVE APPLIED FOR VISA THROUGH ONE OF VIETNAMESE MISSIONS IN EUROPE OR HUNGARIAN DELEGATION COULD HAVE DONE SO THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LIAISON MISSION
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TO ICCS.

3. DEPUTY HUNGDEL URANOVICZ TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 16 THAT GVN HAD AT NO TIME INDICATED MARJAI WOULD BE REFUSED ENTRY. ON QUESTIONING, URANOVICZ DID NOT KNOW WHETHER MARJAI AND PARTY HAD VISAS OR HAD APPLIED FOR VISAS. URANOVICZ SAID HUNGDEL HAD FIRST RECEIVED TWO LETTERS FROM GENERAL THUAN, CHIEF OF GVN DELEGATION ON TWO PARTY COMMISSION: FIRST LETTER SAID THAT GVN WANTED TO KNOW ITINERARY PLANNED FOR MARJAI SO THAT SECURITY COULD BE PROVIDED HIM IN VIEW HIS VIP STATUS; SECOND LETTER OFFICIALLY COMMUNICATED GVN REFUSAL TO AGREE TO PLANNED TRIP TO LOC NINH.

4. URANOVICZ REPORTED THAT THESE TWO LETTERS WERE OFFICIALLY WITHDRAWN AND HE WAS INFORMED BY TELEPHONE THAT ANOTHER LETTER WOULD BE SENT. THIRD LETTER RECEIVED SUBSEQUENTLY SAID THAT GVN WAS CONSIDERING QUESTION OF AUTHORIZING MARJAI VISIT TO SVN BUT HAD NOT REACHED A DECISION; IT ALSO SAID THAT HUNGDEL SHOULD ADVISE MARJAI TO REMAIN IN BANGKOK UNTIL QUESTION RESOLVED.

5. COMMENT: CONTRETEMPS OVER MARJAI VISIT APPARENTLY DUE IN PART TO INEXPLICABLE HUNGARIAN FAILURE TO APPLY FOR VISA (OR VISA WAIVER) AND IN PART TO GVN PIQUE AT HUNGARIAN SPEECH IN UN (REF C) AND REQUEST THAT MARJAI VISIT COMMUNIST AREA. WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT GVN HAS REACHED FIRM DECISION NOT TO ADMIT MARJAI. WHILE IN OUR VIEW GVN WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER ADVISED TO SWALLOW THEIR PRIDE AND MAKE A SHOW OF WARM WELCOME TO MARJAI, AN UNDERSTANDABLE INSTINCTIVE ANGRY REACTION HAS CLEARLY TRIUMPHED OVER COOLER COUNSEL.

6. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WE DO NOT INTEND TO INTERVENE AS SUGGESTED REF A.
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